

WELLINGTON.

THE offered premium of 150*l.* by the Art-Union of London, for a bas-relief, illustrative of an incident in the Duke of Wellington's life, will, we trust, lead to the production of a fine work of art. Besides issuing a considerable number of reproductions in bronze, the council will probably engrave it for general distribution, and thus spread to all parts of the kingdom and the colonies the artist's reputation. Should there be several works of merit, the council might engrave a series of them.

It is to be hoped, though scarcely to be expected, that artistic assistance will be obtained in the arrangement of the Duke's funeral.

Many memorials are spoken of. They cannot easily be worse than some which already exist. At Brighton it is proposed to restore the Old Church, where the Duke was once in the habit of attending, as a memorial to him. The cost is estimated at 5,000*l.* At Oxford, a stained glass window in University Church has been suggested. At Manchester, it was proposed to rebuild the tower of the cathedral, to be afterwards known as the "Wellington Tower;" but a statue has been determined on.

A good opportunity offers itself for the subscribers to the Wellington memorial now disfiguring the arch at Hyde Park Corner, to take it down and place it where its chief merit, its gigantic proportions, may be appreciated. It might be arranged so as to form a noble memorial of the great commander. At present it is a loud-crying disgrace to all the parties concerned, and serves only to provoke a jest or a groan: it is a standing memorial of bad taste and broken faith, and an insult at once to the nation and to a great Memory. Our project would not stand still for want of funds: money to lower it would be raised without difficulty, for the reason that a broken-winded clarionet gets sistance to "more on."

MR. FINDEN, THE ENGRAVER, AND THE ART-UNION OF LONDON.

MR. WILLIAM FINDEN, the historical engraver, who died on the 20th of last month, executed a large number of fine works, particularly the sofa picture of "George IV." by Lawrence; Wilkie's "Village Festival," and many of the plates in the "Gallery of British Art." The last work of importance on which Mr. Finden was engaged was an engraving for the Art-Union of London, after Hilton's picture in the Liverpool Town Hall, "The Crucifixion." A contemporary, who, through some peculiar feeling, is unfortunately never able to exercise his ordinary judgment when speaking of the Art-Union of London, says, as a reason for the inferiority, as he thinks, of "The Crucifixion" to some of Mr. Finden's other works,—"A great engraver is, indeed, reduced in the world when he undertakes to work for an Art (we had nearly written a poor law) Union, for all who have worked for societies of this nature have wrought with a sense that they were doing what poverty alone compels them to do—and their works have exhibited corresponding traces that the hand had lost its cunning, and the heart its good will."

That the public may not be misled on this point, we will mention that "The Crucifixion" was a picture selected by Mr. Finden and his brother for engraving as a private speculation, but feeling, probably, that it was too heavy an undertaking for them, they urged the council of the Art-Union to take the responsibility of it. This the latter consented to do, and they agreed to pay Mr. W. Finden 1,470*l.* for engraving it, which included 210*l.* for the copy of the picture previously obtained by Messrs. F. He agreed to execute it in three years, but more than five passed before it came into the hands of the council. The impressions are to be issued as prizes only, in limited numbers, so that he could have had no fear, supposing the engraving properly executed, that impressions would be distributed from a worn-out plate. He had every inducement indeed, and, as he professed, the greatest desire to produce a fine work: any inferiority that may be observable must be

attributed to the approaching infirmities of the departed engraver.

The objectionable observation we have quoted would disgrace English engravers, if it were true. In the exceptional cases, where engravers commissioned by the Society have produced inferior works, let the discredit rest where in justice it should, on themselves alone.

THE COMMERCIAL TRAVELLERS' SCHOOL COMPETITION.

FIFTY sets of designs were submitted to the committee, in reply to their advertisement, the estimates varying from 3,300*l.* to 32,000*l.* Mr. Hardwick and Mr. Wood were called in to advise upon these, and recommended seven. The committee, we understand, adopted the order in which the referees placed these, and have awarded the first premium (100*l.*) to Mr. G. O. Lane; the second (50*l.*) to Messrs. Garling and Blakeley; and the third (25*l.*) to Messrs. Banks and Barry.

The signatures of the selected seven were—"Argonaut," "Speci," "Fides," "Britannia A. 6," "Credamur," "Consider the fortune of thy Son," and "Non quo sed quomodo." We believe this was the order in which they were placed by the referees, but are not certain.

Many of the designs showed skill and knowledge, as well among those that were not selected as those that were, but not one, we should think, would answer the purpose of the committee. It was grievous to see so much labour and thought wasted through want of complete knowledge of what is wanted, and which personal communication between the architect and employer can alone supply.

We are anxious to remove the impression which we understand exists in the committee, that having rewarded the authors of the selected designs, they can now employ any other person as their architect. Such a proceeding would be most unjust. The premiums afford no inducement whatever to go into an undertaking of this kind. If these were the sole reward looked for, the competitors might have gained more without drawing a line, or giving a moment's thought; and we will tell the committee how. At the very least 5*l.* as an average, of hard cash (more indeed), has been expended on each of the fifty sets, quite irrespective of time and labour. If the competitors, instead of spending it, had clubbed their money, and drawn lots, it would have given them three larger premiums, without the anxiety, thought, and expenditure of time which have been required. Those who competed looked of course to the higher reward of carrying out their designs.

ENLARGEMENT OF BRITISH MUSEUM.

THE purposes and contents of the National Museum now press so closely on its limits, that the plan of Mr. Hosking for its enlargement, sketched out in his mind even while the main building was in course of erection, and formally but unavailingly offered by him for the approval of the trustees in November, 1849, is now more and more forcing itself into notice as a matter of necessity; but the writers in the daily press who urge its adoption, appear to have lost all recollection of its true paternity, and speak of it as a sort of general property, modified and altered by one and by another according to fancy. We think it but justice to Mr. Hosking, therefore, as we originally published his design both by text and by illustration, not only to refer our readers to page 296 of our volume for 1850, where both plan and details appear, but to reprint the main features of the proposal in Mr. Hosking's own words, as presented to the trustees of the Museum in 1849:—

"My project is, then, to build in the middle of the quadrangular court, inclosed by the present main buildings of the museum, in the manner shown in the accompanying plan, a modified copy of the Pantheon at Rome;—that is to say, of the cupola-covered rotunda known by that name,—as nearly the full size as possible, consistently with the size of the area, and with the height of the present buildings, and so to form a grand central hall for the exhibition of the finer and more important works of sculpture, and of such other objects pro-

per to the purposes of the Museum as most require that steady and equable light which is so well obtained from the eye of a cupola. A quadrilateral hall, to contain ample staircases, would lead from the present entrance vestibule of the Museum into the grand central hall or rotunda, and by the floor of the rotunda itself, or by a corridor about it to the east, west, and north galleries respectively, through new compartments added to them on the level of the floor of the lower or principal story of the Museum; and the staircases would lead up to a bridge-way or continued landing on the floor of the upper story, where another similar corridor about the rotunda would afford similar facilities of access to the upper east, west, and north galleries, whilst the bridge-way would also make the communication complete to the south gallery. The formation of staircases in the place and manner indicated would allow the space now occupied by the grand staircase to be restored to the purposes of the Museum, and thus make the circuit complete in both stories, whilst every part would be rendered, by the before-described arrangements alike accessible from a common centre."

"The additional room which this project would give to the Museum is, 1st, The great central hall, with one floor of 120 feet in diameter, yielding an area nearly equal to twice the area of the present Athenæum or Elgin Marbles Gallery; 2nd, Two inscribing octagonal corridors, each 16 feet wide, and each comprising an area of between four and five thousand superficial feet, and each also presenting niches fit to receive statues, and extensive wall surface fit to receive sculptured reliefs and inscriptions; and, 3rd, The connecting galleries on the east and west sides, each 45 feet by 35 feet, and in both stories; the north connecting gallery 65 feet by 50 feet in the principal story, and 35 feet by 50 feet in the upper story, and the site of the present staircase in both stories. This additional room may, the author believes, be obtained at a cost not exceeding that of any one of the existing sides of the Museum."

LIMERICK MARKETS COMPETITION.

The trustees, after some adjourned meetings, have come to a decision respecting this competition. Out of fourteen designs, the committee selected four for final consideration, and have awarded the first premium of 75*l.* to Mr. Atkins, of Cork; the second, 35*l.* to Mr. Neville; and the third, 15*l.* to Mr. Nagle. From the proceedings of the trustees, the press was excluded, and of this the local journals complain much; but we know that, previously to the decision being come to, Mr. Atkins came forward and pledged himself that his plan should be executed for the stipulated amount, 10,000*l.* When the intended works are erected, the small city of Limerick will be able to boast of what the metropolis of Ireland cannot. All who know Dublin must be aware that there is not a public market in the city except Smithfield, and this is perfectly destitute of all the requirements for market purposes, which even the Corkonians possess on a small but comprehensive scale.

SMALL PIPE DRAINAGE.

METROPOLITAN COMMISSION OF SEWER.

AT a special meeting of the commission last week, on opening certain tenders advertised for, for works in Church-lane, St. Giles's, Mr. Hosking said he saw that they were rendered necessary by the failure of certain works executed there, not very long since, at a cost of 1,200*l.* He thought that the Court ought to be informed of the reason of the former failure. It seemed to be the result of draining by pipes, not much larger than tobacco-pipes, which had failed, and thus very nearly doubled the expense of draining this locality. He made no reflection upon the way in which the work was done, but he considered the case a very important piece of evidence as to the inefficiency of a certain system which had been applied. He was not quite prepared to say that pipe-drains would not answer in any other locality, but on this occasion the fact of their being unfitly applied was an important consideration. The drainage had failed: the houses had been injured and rendered insecure: the original estimate had been nearly doubled, and now they had to dig up all their works again, and substitute others for them at a large outlay. In order to drain these houses they had laid down pipes, erected a large water